

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 99

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Nick L. Salazar

A JOINT MEMORIAL

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE DEATH OF FORMER LEGISLATOR JOHN
MERSHON.

WHEREAS, John Mershon, a Cloudcroft democrat and once one
of New Mexico's most powerful legislators, died at the age of
ninety-five on July 6, 2004; and

WHEREAS, he served in the New Mexico house of
representatives for twenty-four years, chairing the house
appropriations and finance committee and the legislative
finance committee for many of those years; and

WHEREAS, he was first elected to the house in 1958 and
served through 1982, and along with chairing the house
appropriations and finance committee between 1963 and 1972 and
1979 and 1982, he served as its vice chairman from 1961 to 1962
and also served as a member of the 1973 tax study committee and

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1 as chairman of the house energy committee in 1975 and 1976; and

2 WHEREAS, it was well-known that when Representative
3 Mershon's was questioning witnesses, if his glasses came down
4 to the tip of his nose and he looked over the top of them,
5 that was a sign that the witness was just about to get it; and

6 WHEREAS, he is credited with creating the professional
7 staff for the legislative finance committee; and

8 WHEREAS, he was born September 16, 1908 in Siloam Springs,
9 Arkansas, and attended schools in Arkansas and Oklahoma before
10 moving with his father in 1938 to Mayhill, New Mexico to work
11 in the lumber mill until it closed in 1942 because of the World
12 War II; and

13 WHEREAS, he worked a quarter century as a broker of farm
14 produce and followed that job with selling mountain real estate
15 with Bernie Bounds; and

16 WHEREAS, he founded the Otero county electric cooperative,
17 helped found the first national bank in Alamogordo and was
18 instrumental in getting United States route 82 from Alamogordo
19 to Cloudcroft paved; and

20 WHEREAS, Representative Mershon's first love, after his
21 wife Milicent, was the Sacramento Mountain Historical Society,
22 which he helped found in 1977 and supported through gifts and
23 contributions, and his work on behalf of his community led to
24 Cloudcroft's medical center being named in his honor; and

25 WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife of sixty-seven years,

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1 Milicent; two sons, William F. Mershon of Mayhill and James B.
2 Mershon of Parachute, Colorado; three grandchildren; one great-
3 granddaughter; and three sisters;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that condolences be expressed to the family
6 of John Mershon, a determined, self-reliant and devoted New
7 Mexican whose service to this state and his community was
8 extraordinary; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
10 transmitted to Milicent, William F. and James B. Mershon.